

Designer Interview — Home Assignment

UX/UI Design Brief: Data Analytics & Invoice Audit Platform

About This Assignment

Thank you for your interest in joining the NovaCorp team. This home assignment is designed to assess your ability to translate complex data and analytical requirements into clear, intuitive, and visually compelling product experiences.

You will be designing key screens for an internal data analytics platform that helps NovaCorp's procurement and finance teams manage invoice compliance, data quality, and financial governance at scale.

1. Project Overview

Project Name	NovaCorp Data Analytics & Invoice Audit Platform
Product Type	Internal enterprise web application
Primary Users	Procurement managers, Finance controllers, Operations analysts
Core Purpose	Data cleaning, harmonization, automated invoice auditing and compliance reporting
Design Phase	Proof of Value (PoV) — design vision & key screens

2. Background & Context

NovaCorp currently processes large volumes of supplier invoices across multiple geographies. These invoices must be validated against signed contracts, approved rate cards, and commercial pricing agreements. The process is largely manual, time-consuming, and prone to financial leakage.

The platform being designed will automate this process — from raw data ingestion and cleaning through to compliance scoring, exception handling, and executive reporting.

The guiding principle of this product is:

"Benchmarking starts with data cleaning."

Without clean data, no compliance analysis or benchmarking output can be credible.

3. Target Users

Design for the following primary user types:

Procurement Manager	Finance Controller	Operations Analyst
Needs: Vendor compliance overview, contract alignment, quick exception triage	Needs: Financial exposure data, leakage reports, executive summary charts	Needs: Data quality scores, drill-down views, invoice-level detail, filtering tools

4. Platform Structure

The platform is organized into three sequential phases. Design should reflect this logical progression:

Phase 1 — Data Cleaning & Harmonization (Primary Priority)

The foundation layer. Users must be able to:

- Upload and ingest datasets from multiple sources
- View a Data Quality Report (missing values %, duplicates, schema mismatches, currency/unit inconsistencies)
- Track harmonization progress: vendor normalization, currency standardization, deduplication
- See a before/after data quality score comparison
- Access a data dictionary with field definitions and transformation log

Phase 2 — Automated Invoice Audit

The compliance engine. Users must be able to:

- See each invoice matched against its contract, rate card, and pricing agreement
- View compliance classification per invoice: Fully Compliant / Partially Compliant / Non-Compliant
- Drill into exceptions: deviation type, financial impact, root cause, recommended action

- Track total financial exposure and value leakage amounts

Phase 3 — Benchmarking Indicators (Supplementary)

High-level indicators (shown with confidence levels). Includes:

- Cost per shipment distribution
- Vendor pricing dispersion
- Compliance rate by geography
- Outlier pricing detection

5. Screens to Design

Please design the following screens as part of your assignment. You may choose the layout, style, and components — but all screens must address the content requirements below.

Screen 1: Main Dashboard / Compliance Overview

This is the primary landing screen. It should give a complete at-a-glance picture of the audit status. Must include:

- KPI cards: % Fully Compliant, % Partially Compliant, % Non-Compliant
- Total financial exposure and value leakage in monetary values
- Gross overcharges vs. gross undercharges vs. net impact
- Vendor compliance ranking (top & bottom vendors)
- Filter controls: Vendor, Date Range, Geography, Contract, Service Level

Screen 2: Data Quality Report

Presented after data ingestion. Communicates the health of the raw data to the user. Must include:

- Overall data quality score (before and after cleaning)
- Breakdown by issue type: missing values, duplicates, schema mismatches, currency inconsistencies, invalid references
- Visual representation of before/after improvement
- Ingestion log or status summary

Screen 3: Invoice Detail / Exception View

A drill-down view for a single invoice showing its full audit trail. Must include:

- Invoice summary: vendor, date, amount, contract reference
- Compliance status badge
- Line-by-line audit breakdown: what was invoiced vs. what should have been billed
- Exception details: type of deviation, financial impact, root cause, recommended action
- Navigation back to the main list

Screen 4: Root Cause Analysis View

An analytical view breaking down all exceptions by category. Must include:

- Exception categories: Incorrect rate, Missing contract reference, Outdated rate card, Volume tier error, Currency mismatch, Surcharge miscalculation, Data mapping errors, Manual overrides
- Each category quantified by frequency AND financial impact
- Visual chart (your choice of chart type) showing distribution
- Ability to click through to affected invoices

6. Data Visualization Requirements

The platform relies heavily on data visualization. You are encouraged to include appropriate charts and visual elements. Suggested types (not mandatory):

Visualization Type	Suggested Use
Waterfall chart	Show financial impact: overcharges vs. undercharges vs. net
Pareto chart	Identify top root causes by financial impact (80/20 rule)
Heatmap	Value leakage by vendor or geography
Vendor quadrant matrix	Risk vs. volume comparison by vendor
Trend line	Compliance rate over time
Donut / pie chart	Compliance status distribution
Bar chart (ranked)	Vendor compliance ranking

6.5 Design Vision & Reference

The visual design language of this platform should be aligned with ZoomInfo's product design — a modern, data-dense B2B SaaS aesthetic that balances information richness with clarity and professional polish.

ZoomInfo Design Reference

Please study ZoomInfo's product UI as your primary visual reference before starting. Key characteristics to adopt:

- Dark sidebar navigation with clear section hierarchy
- Dense data tables with inline badges, status indicators, and action menus
- KPI cards with subtle borders and clean typography
- Filters and search as first-class UI elements
- Neutral background (off-white or light grey) with blue accent for interactive elements

Reference link:

<https://www.zoominfo.com/>

7. Design Guidelines

Brand & Style

- NovaCorp brand color: #003DA5 (deep blue) — use as primary color
- Clean, professional, enterprise aesthetic — this is an internal B2B tool
- Data-dense layouts are expected — prioritize readability and scannability over minimalism
- Use of white space to separate sections and reduce cognitive load

Functional Requirements

- All screens must be desktop-first (web application, minimum 1280px wide)
- Sidebar or top navigation showing the three phases
- Consistent use of status indicators: Compliant (green), Partial (amber), Non-Compliant (red)
- Tables must be sortable and filterable (show interaction states in your design)
- Charts and KPI cards should feel interactive — use hover states or tooltips where appropriate

What We Are NOT Looking For

- A marketing or consumer-facing design — this is an internal data tool
- Decorative illustrations or lifestyle imagery
- Mobile-only or responsive-first design (desktop is the priority)

8. Deliverables

Deliverable	Details	Format
4 Screen Designs	Main Dashboard, Data Quality Report, Invoice Detail, Root Cause Analysis — fully detailed hi-fi mockups	Figma / PDF
Design System Snippet	Color palette, typography, key components (buttons, badges, cards, table styles)	Figma / PDF
Brief Walkthrough	A short written or video walkthrough explaining your design decisions (max 5 minutes or 1 page)	Video / Doc

9. Evaluation Criteria

Your submission will be evaluated on:

Clarity & Information Architecture Is complex data presented clearly? Can users quickly find what they need?	Data Visualization Choices Are the right chart types used? Do they serve the user's decision-making needs?
Visual Quality & Consistency Is the design polished and consistent across all screens?	Design Rationale Can you explain why you made the choices you made?
Understanding of the Domain Does the design reflect an understanding of procurement and compliance workflows?	Bonus: Interaction Design Hover states, micro-interactions, empty states, loading states — do you think beyond static screens?

Questions? Reach out before you start.

We value thoughtful work over speed. Take the time you need to do this well.

Good luck — we look forward to seeing your thinking.